

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

EUR-12 SAJ-01 INR-07 INRE-00 /042 W

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O 230015Z JAN 76

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SECTO 01070

FOR S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT - TOAST AT LUNCHEON JANUARY 22, 1976

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NOT REPEAT NOT FOR RELEASE, IS
TEXT AS TRANSCRIBED FROM ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF
ORIGINAL RUSSIAN OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO'S TOAST
DELIVERED IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS.

BEGIN TEXT: MR. SECRETARY OF STATE, LET ME THANK YOU ON
MY OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF ALL YOUR SOVIET GUESTS FOR
YOUR HOSPITALITY.

WHEN ONE IS PRESENT EITHER HERE OR ELSEWHERE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PRESS FREQUENTLY ASK HOW THE TALKS ARE GOING, AND
WHETHER YOU THINK THEY WILL BE COMPLETED SOON, AND VARIOUS
OTHER QUESTIONS. IT IS TRUE IT IS NOT AN EASY TASK TO
REPLY TO SUCH QUESTIONS. IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO
GIVE A QUOTE YES UNQUOTE OR QUTE NO UNQUOTE TO
QUESTIONS SUCH AS THAT.

NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATING IS A PROCESS.

MOREOVER, THE QUESTION TO WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE
REFERRED, AND WHICH INDEED IS AT THE VERY CENTER OF OUR
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PRESENT DELIBERATIONS, IS THE QUESTION OF

STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. THE POSSIBILITY OF CON-
CLUDING A NEW AGREEMENT IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLEX ONE.
IT WOULD OF COURSE BE A VERY GOOD THING; THE IDEAL
SITUATION WOULD BE IF ONE COULD VERY QUICKLY BEGIN,
CONDUCT AND FINALIZE THE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT THE PROBLEM
IS A VERY SERIOUS ONE. BOTH SIDES ARE DOING
THE RIGHT THING WHEN THEY DEVOTE ALL NECESSARY TIME AND
EFFORT TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS IN ORDER TO
SURMOUNT WHATEVER ISSUES REMAIN OUTSTANDING.

AND IT IS THESE PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS THAT ARE NOW
BEING WORKED ON DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

I DO NOT THINK IT IS AT ALL NECESSARY TO MENTION THE
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS
BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE BY NO
MEANS OUT OF PLACE TO STRESS ONCE AGAIN THAT THE
QUESTIONS UNDEER CONSIDERATION ARE MOST SERIOUS. AND I
SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE, THE SOVIET
LEADERS AND GENERAL SECRETARY LEONID BREZHNEV
PERSONALLY, SEE OUR MAIN TASK IN IMPLEMENTING AND
PUTTING INTO EFFECT THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED AT
VLADIVOSTOK BETWEEN GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV AND
PRESIDENT FORD.

WE ARE FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF THAT UNDERSTANDING BEING
FULLY IMPLEMENTED, AND WE WANT THAT UNDERSTANDING
TO BE GIVEN THE FINALIZED FORM OF AN AGREEMENT. AND
SPEAKING FOR THE SOVIET SIDE, I CAN SAY THAT WE ARE
DOING ALL WE CAN TO ACT IN THAT DIRECTION, AND WE
WILL CONTINUE TO ACT IN THE SAME WAY.

WE KNOW FULL WELL THAT ALMOST THE ENTIRE WORLD
WELCOMED AND TOOK A FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TO THE
VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING, AND WE THEREFORE BELIEVE
THAT THE TASK NOW FACING BOTH SIDES, THE TASK OF
PREPARING AND THEN SIGNING A NEW AGREEMENT MEETS
THE INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF THE PEOPLES OF OUR TWO
COUNTRIES BUT THOSE OF THE WORLD AT LARGE. AND
THEREFORE IT IS CERTAINLY WORTH THE EFFORT AND
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TIME WE SPEND ON THAT NOBLE AND LOFTY AIM. OF
COURSE, ALL ELSE EQUAL, THE SOONER WE REACH AGREEMENT
THE BETTER IT WILL BE.

I SHOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL
FULFILL THE VERY IMPORTANT TASK AT HAND, AND THAT A
NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED. I WISH TO REPEAT I WOULD
CERTAINLY LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT.

OF COURSE, APART FROM THIS IMPORTANT PROBLEM OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WERE ALSO TOUCHED UPON DURING THE TALKS. THERE ARE PROBLEMS, QUESTIONS BEARING ON SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO OF INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, AND I COULD SAY OF INTEREST TO ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

HERE, TOO, I DO NOT THINK IT IS AT ALL NECESSARY TO NAME THESE QUESTIONS. SOME RELATE TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND SOME CANNOT BE RELEGATED TO ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA, FOR INSTANCE THE QUESTION OF DISARMAMENT OR THE QUESTION OF LESSENING TENSION-- THESE ARE TRULY WORLDWIDE ISSUES.

AND I SHOULD LIKE HERE TO MENTION AND TO REPEAT WHAT LEONID BREZHNEV SAID YESTERDAY FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT FORD. THAT IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL REMAIN DEDICATED TO THE LINE OF STUGGLING FOR PEACE, FOR A LESSENING OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS, AND FOR A REMOVAL OF THE THREAT OF A NUCLEAR WAR. IN THIS WAY WE HAVE ACTED IN THE PAST, IN THIS WAY WE ARE ACTING TODAY, AND WE INTEND TO GO ON ACTING THIS WAY IN THE FUTURE AS WELL.

THERE ARE CERTAIN FORCES, CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO DO NOT LIKE THAT KIND OF A POLICY AND THEY ARE UP IN ARMS NOTABLY AGAINST THE LINE OF RELAXATION OF TENSIONS AND ARE NOT AVERSE TO LECTURING OTHERS ON THIS SCORE. BUT I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED BY ANY SUCH STATEMENTS OR UTTERANCES LEVELED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGAINST THE LINE OF RELAXING INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND DEEPENING DETENTE.

I SHOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. TOO, WILL FOLLOW THE PATH IN IMPLEMENTING THE VARIOUS UNDERTAKINGS ASSUMED UNDER THE APPROPRIATE SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENTS. AND WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE QUESTION OF A POLICY AIMED AT DEEPING DETENTE IS ENCOURAGING AS REGARDS THE FUTURE OF U.S. POLICIES.

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

EUR-12 SAJ-01 INR-07 INRE-00 /042 W

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 SECTO 01070

FOR S/PRS

AND WHAT OF THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO DETENTE? WHAT CAN
THOSE SHOUTERS SUGGEST AS A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE?
THEY HAVE NOTHING, THEY HAVE ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING WHICH WOULD BE IN LINE OR COULD BE IN LINE
WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE. THEY HAVE NOTHING
REASONABLE UP THEIR SLEEVES.

AND SO WITH THE HOPE FOR THE SOVIET UNION AND THE
UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN MATTERS OF
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS; TO FOLLOW THE PATH THAT HAS
TAKEN DEFINITE SHAPE IN RECENT YEARS AND HAS BEEN
REFLECTED IN THE RELATIVE SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENTS
FIRMLY ADHERING TO THAT LINE; FOR LETTING NOTHING STAND
IN THE WAY OF THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT LINE;
FOR COMPLETE COOPERATION IN THE LESSENING OF TENSION;
FOR NEW SUCCESSES IN THE SOLUTION OF IMPORTANT
INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS; AND FOR THE HEALTH OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ALL TO
RAISE YOUR GLASSES.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO01070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760025-0437
From: SECRETARY MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760127/aaaaaxox.tel
Line Count: 213
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT - TOAST AT LUNCHEON JANUARY 22, 1976 FOR YOUR INFORMATION, NOT REPEAT NOT FOR RELEASE, IS
TAGS: OVIP, US, UR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006